

Town Board

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September 12, 2006

Chairperson Daniel R. Ebert
Public Service Commission
610 Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

RE: PSCW Docket 137-CE-139: ATC's North Madison to Huiskamp Transmission Project

Dear Chairperson Ebert:

On behalf of the Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Westport, I am writing with their concerns and recommendations for submission into the public record on Docket No. 137-CE-139 before the Public Service Commission. The transmission line at issue in the above matter is located mainly in the Town of Westport. Therefore, this is a matter of importance to the Town of Westport Board of Supervisors. Given the potential effect this docket will have on future applications by the American Transmission Company, we believe it is necessary to review all potential applications and proposed lines going through Dane County simultaneously to adequately address need, size and route issues. Please make this part of the public record for this action.

Specifically the Town Board requests and supports the following:

1. Consolidation of all the dockets anticipated for determining the need for additional electrical transmission facilities in Dane County to include, but not limited to, The Waunakee Transmission Project, the proposed Rockdale-Middleton line, the Middleton-Walnut-Blount line, and the North Madison-West Middleton line.
2. The petitions of the City of Madison, Dane County and the Dane County Towns Association to participate with full party status in one or more Public Service Commission (PSC) dockets pertaining to the matter of determining the need for new electrical transmission lines in Dane County and other matters relating to the proposed construction of said lines by the American Transmission Company (ATC). In addition, we support the petitions of any other municipality affected by this and other proposed routes to participate with full party status.

3. An ATC-funded but PSC managed independent analysis of the ATC justification for additional transmission lines in Dane County. The criteria for such an independent analysis should ensure the interests of Dane County citizens, businesses, and elected officials are represented and an independent analysis is satisfied.

Consolidation of all the dockets anticipated in the decision to construct new transmission facilities is particularly important before the first leg of the proposal (Waunakee) is approved. This will guarantee that planning for the future transmission requirements in Dane County is undertaken in a comprehensive and integrated process that includes alternative strategies for assuring that future energy requirements are met at the lowest possible cost to ratepayers.

Adequate and affordable energy supplies are essential ingredients for a healthy economy. A rigorous, integrated and comprehensive study of future energy requirements should reveal how best to fulfill those requirements, while offering the best opportunity for securing affordability for the citizens and businesses of Dane County.

We appreciate your recognition of the serious concerns of Dane County residents, and particularly to those in the Town of Westport, and look forward to hearing from you on our recommendations.

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Thomas G. Wilson
Attorney/Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

TGW/df

cc: The Honorable Edward Marion, Administrative Law Judge
John Van Dinter, Town Board Chair (by e-mail only)
Gerald Derr, Dane County Towns Association President
John Laubmeier, Waunakee Village President
Sarah Justus, ATC Local Relations
Robin Stearns, Wire Safe Wisconsin